Extirpation of a Popliteal Arteriovenous Aneurysm.—Stich (*Deut. Ztschr. f. Chir.*, 1908, xcv, 577) reports the following case, in which the divided vessels were united end-to-end by circular suture: A boy, aged sixteen years, received a piece of cold iron in the left thigh. He lost much blood, but the wound healed quickly, and he went to work after eight days. In a short time the left limb was much larger than normal. An elastic stocking was worn without results. A year after the injury Trendelenburg's operation for varicose veins was performed, again without improvement. About five months later he was again operated on. The swelling and the disability were much greater. Besides a very thick and elastic œdema, there was visible in the whole leg and up to the junction of the middle and upper thirds of the thigh a cord like vein, dilated to the thickness of the finger. This pulsated distinctly, especially in the region of the knee; its walls were thickened and nodular, as in varicose veins. No pulsation could be felt in the dorsalis pedis and anterior tibial arteries. Over the popliteal region a considerable bruit could be heard on auscultation. The dilated vein was freely exposed just above the knee, and the wound was deepened into the popliteal space which contained a pulsating tumor, which was shown to be a sacculated, lateral dilatation of the popliteal artery. It communicated with the vein and gave to it a strong pulsation. The vein was torn during the operation and was ligated above and below the communication, so that a 4 cm. long piece of the vein could be resected. The arterial aneurysm was so inconveniently placed on the joint side of the artery that a plastic operation for the closure of the opening in the artery could not be carried out. The opened specimen showed that a double lateral suture of the artery and of the vein would have been necessary, and a troublesome stenosis would have resulted. After the application of clamps to the artery, a 1 cm. long piece was removed, which contained the communication with the artery. The two ends of the artery were brought together by slightly bending the knee; and were united by a circular suture with much less difficulty than is frequently the case in the smaller arteries of the lower animals. Immediately after the operation the toes of the left foot were of a normal color and the sensibility well preserved. Five months after operation the patient felt tension in the limb only after long walking. Fourteen days after the operation he went back to his work as a blacksmith. There is distinct pulsation in the left dorsalis pedis and anterior tibial arteries.

An Experimental Contribution to the Question of the Collateral Circulation of the Kidney.—Florcken (*Deut. Ztschr. f. Chir.*, 1908, xc, 591) carried out some animal experiments to show the advantages in collateral circulation of the kidney from connecting the omentum with the kidney after decapsulation. Martini, Parlavecchio, Omi, and Girgolaff came to the conclusion from their experiments that this operation produced a collateral circulation so free that it entirely or partly replaced the blood supply coming through the hilum of the kidney. Omi and Parlavecchio claimed that a better result was obtained from splitting the kidney and implanting the omentum into the cleft. Flörcken did his experiments usually in two sittings. In the first he did a transperitoneal nephrotomy and omentum implantation. In the second he ligated the renal artery or the artery and vein, to disconnect as much as possible the kidney from the aorta or the aorta and cava. Some of the operations were done on both sides, some on one side. He concluded from his work that the double nephrotomy with implantation of the omentum in one sitting will usually not be borne by cats, the animals generally dying in a short time with uremic symptoms. After a unilateral nephrotomy with implantation of the omentum, the arterial anastomosis formed between the kidney and omentum was not sufficiently free to support the kidney after ligation of the renal vessels at the hilum. When the renal artery or artery and vein are ligated, necrosis of the kidney results. Whether the artery or both vessels were ligated the end results were the same. No efforts were made to investigate the venous collateral circulation.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Curative Influence of Extracts of Leukocytes upon Infections in Animals.—HISS (*Jour. Med. Research.*, 1908, xix, 323) in the introduction, discusses some facts and hypotheses of immunity and gives reasons to support the idea that leukocytes play an important part in the protection against infections. This protective power is most marked in those infections in which the poisoning is supposed to be due to endotoxins. In these infections there is most need for a direct action of the leukocytes upon the invading microörganisms and their poison. Ordinarily this action occurs in the body of the leukocyte and forms a part of the phenomenon of phagocytosis. Hiss assumes that the leukocytes manufacture some substance or substances—(digestive) poison-neutralizing or complementary—which prevent the destruction or injury of the leukocytes during phagocytosis. These substances exist in the individual cells and are not ordinarily given off into the blood stream. Hiss, from this hypothesis, conceived the idea that these substances might be extracted from the leukocytes and artifically introduced into infected animals or man. Such substances, if they became free from the cells by extraction might aid the leukocytes in their fight against infection by furnishing them as directly as possible with the active substances. The leukocyte, then, would be enabled to recuperate and would be better protected against destruction. This idea of immunity assumes the presence and production in the leukocytes of agents which are not normally given up to the plasma, and are for the benefit and protection of the individual cell. These agents are only of benefit to the body when the leukocytes containing them exist in sufficient numbers to intervene successfully between the invading germs